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HOUSE BILL 2232

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State of Washington                      65th Legislature      2017 3rd Special Session

By Representatives Riccelli, Pollet, Macri, Chapman, Graves, and Stonier

Read first time 06/27/17. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1            AN ACT Relating to providing health insurance coverage options to  
2 individuals residing in underserved areas; adding new sections to  
3 chapter 74.09 RCW; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7            (1) The apple health plus program is established to provide  
8 health insurance coverage to eligible individuals who purchase  
9 coverage through the program.

10           (2) The director shall:

11           (a) Contract with managed health care systems to provide benefits  
12 identical to those provided to medical assistance clients to eligible  
13 individuals;

14           (b) Establish premiums and cost-sharing requirements for eligible  
15 individuals enrolled in the apple health plus program, collect  
16 premium payments from enrolled eligible individuals, and deposit  
17 premium payments in the apple health plus subscription account. If  
18 the eligible individual qualifies for premium subsidies or cost-  
19 sharing reductions under the patient protection and affordable care  
20 act, the premium or cost-sharing amounts established under this  
21 subsection may not exceed the amounts the eligible individual would

1 have paid if he or she had enrolled in a silver level qualified  
2 health plan through the Washington health benefit exchange;

3 (c) Establish open enrollment and special enrollment periods;

4 (d) Enroll eligible individuals who meet program requirements and  
5 pay premiums, as established by the director;

6 (e) Report annually to the governor and the legislature on  
7 enrollment, managed health care system contracting status, premium  
8 collections, and the financial status of the apple health plus  
9 program; and

10 (f) Adopt any rules necessary to implement the apple health plus  
11 program.

12 (3) The director shall pursue funding opportunities through  
13 waivers, grants, or other payment options to assist with the  
14 administration of the apple health plus program and the cost of  
15 health coverage offered through the apple health plus program, but  
16 the availability of such other resources is not required for the  
17 implementation of this section.

18 (4) The apple health plus program shall begin offering coverage  
19 to eligible individuals by January 1, 2018.

20 (5) For the purposes of this section:

21 (a) "Eligible individual" means a person who:

22 (i) Is a resident of the state;

23 (ii) Is not eligible for medical care through any programs  
24 offered pursuant to this chapter;

25 (iii) Is not eligible for the federal medicare program; and

26 (iv) Resides in a county where an individual health plan other  
27 than a catastrophic health plan as defined in RCW 48.43.005 is not  
28 offered to the person during defined open enrollment or special  
29 enrollment periods at the time of application to the program.

30 (b) "Qualified health plan" means a health plan that has been  
31 certified as a qualified health plan by the governing board of the  
32 Washington health benefit exchange under RCW 43.71.065.

33 (c) "Washington health benefit exchange" means the Washington  
34 health benefit exchange established pursuant to chapter 43.71 RCW.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.09  
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 The apple health plus subscription account is created in the  
38 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from premiums collected  
39 from enrollees in the apple health plus program must be deposited

1 into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for  
2 the purposes of section 1 of this act, including administration of  
3 the apple health plus program and the cost of health coverage offered  
4 through the apple health plus program. Only the director or the  
5 director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The  
6 account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,  
7 but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of  
10 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes  
11 effect immediately.

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